



Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP

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Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP

Secretary of State

Ministry of Defence

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5th

December 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

As you will be aware the Committee recently took evidence from BAE Systems and relevant trade unions on the impact of the company's restructuring on UK Defence. I enclose a copy of the evidence transcript. To assist the Committee with its inquiry we would be grateful for the Department's response to the following questions:

1. What consultation has taken place with industry as part of the National Security Capability Review?
2. What assessment have you made of the impact of leaving the EU on the UK Defence Industry?
3. What progress have you made on the Defence Industrial Refresh?
4. What plans do you have to develop a Defence Aerospace Industrial Strategy?
5. What is your reaction to the suggestion that major defence companies are attempting to move to a model where they develop advanced systems but do not manufacture them in the UK?
6. What is your assessment of the assertion that, by 2020, 25p of each £1 that the UK spends on defence will be spent in the US?
7. How do you respond to the statement that BAE's restructuring is "short sighted"?
8. What are you doing to help secure further exports of Typhoon and Hawk?
9. What work is taking place on the development of the sixth-generation fighter and when will decisions be taken?

10. What consultation took place between BAE, the Department and partner nations on reducing the build rate of Typhoon?
11. What steps are being taken to bridge the gap between the Tornado coming out of service and the F-35 coming into operation?
12. What developments have there been on the contract with Qatar for Typhoon and Hawk?
13. When, and how, was it decided that 2030 was the appropriate date to upgrade the Red Arrows and what assessment has the Department made of the consequences of upgrading them earlier? What would be the impact on other capabilities?
14. What steps are you taking to promote the development of the Advanced Hawk? Will you provide the investment of £120 million suggested by the unions?
15. What steps is the Government taking to protect and upgrade the skills base of the UK Defence Industry?
16. What assistance is the Government providing to communities affected by BAE's restructuring?

We would be grateful to receive your response by 8 January 2018.

Yours ever,

Julian

Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis
Chairman of the Defence Committee